GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2608
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
TRADE WITH PAKISTAN
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to start trade with Pakistan through road;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the number of commodities identified for trade;

(c) whether any trade/agreement has been signed by India and Pakistan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (b) For India-Pakistan trade through road, Attari Land Custom Station (LCS) (Wagah Border on Pakistan side) has already been a notified route since November 1994 for trade for all goods on a permanent basis. However, Pakistan is yet to notify the same for all goods and on a permanent basis. In May 2005, Pakistan did notify this LCS for trade on a temporary basis for selected commodities like live animals, halal meats, onion, potato, tomato and garlic which is still operative.

During the third India-Pakistan Composite Dialogue at Commerce Secretary level held in New Delhi in August 2005, the Indian side requested to open this land route on a permanent basis for enhancing the bilateral trade. Pakistan noted the request and stated that they were studying the infrastructural and administrative implications of opening of land route on permanent basis.

During the fourth round of Composite Dialogue at Commerce Secretary-level held in New Delhi on 31 July-1 August 2007, both sides briefed on the proposed plan for development of Integrated Check-post (ICP) at this border and agreed to continue the exchange of information on the development of ICPs on either side.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.